

Message Text

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12
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SNM-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15

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R 100330Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9693
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY THERAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 7493

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AF, IR
SUBJ: RUMORED TIGHTENING OF CONTROLS OF AFGHAN-IRANIAN
BORDER

RFF: KABUL 7452

1. IRANIAN CHARGE (BAHARLOU) TOLD EMBOFF TODAY OCTOBER 9
HE HAD NO PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF TIGHENED IRANIAN CONTROLS
ALONG AFGHAN BORDER, BUT THAT AS OF ABOUT "A FEW" WEEKS
AGO AFGHANS HAD BEGUN TO TAKE STERN MEASURES AGAINST
AFGHAN NATIONALS SEEKING TO CROSS ILLEGALLY INTO IRAN.

2. ACCORDING TO BAHARLOU AFGHANS ARE CONCERNED PRIMARILY
OVER LABOR SHORTAGE IN WESTERN PART OF COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY
DURING THIS HARVEST SEASON. GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN
ALSO, SAID BAHARLOU, CONCERNED ABOUT LOSS OF PASSPORT
REVENUE. BAHARLOU SAID AFGHANS ILLEGALLY IN IRAN HAVE
BEEN AFFLICTED BY CRIME AMONG THEMSELVES, AND THAT FOR
THIS REASON AFGHAN WORKERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO
UNDERSTAND THEY WILL BE TOLERATED IN IRAN BUT THAT
THEY MUST LIVE NEAR THEIR PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT AND
NOT TRAVEL ABOUT IRAN. THIS IS ONLY NEW IRANIAN
CONTROL MEASURE.

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3. BAHARLOU SPOKE OF ESTIMATES OF "ILLEGALS" RANGING BETWEEN 70,000 AND 200,000, BUT POINTED OUT THAT IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO COME UP WITH GOOD FIGURE SINCE MOST AFGHAN ILLEGALS CLAIM IRANIAN CITIZENSHIP THROUGH BIRTH IN SOME OTHER PART OF COUNTRY.

4. BAHARLOU DISCUSSED EFFECTS OF AFGHAN ILLEGALS ON EXCHANGE RATE AND SAID ESTIMATES ARE THAT REMITTANCES TO AFGHANISTAN RUN AT ABOUT RATE OF 200,000 DOLS PER DAY. AFGHAN LABORERS, HE SAID, ARE MOST INTERESTED IN BUYING LAND WITH THEIR EARNINGS, BUT SINCE LEGAL LAND TRANSFERS ARE CURENTLY SUSPENDED BECAUSE OF AFGHAN LAND REFORM LAWS TAKING EFFECT, THIS MONEY WINDS UP "BURIED IN THE MATTRESS." (SEE ALSO KABUL A--73 OF 8/3/76.)

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Message Attributes

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